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SWANAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health	E.J. O'KEEFFE, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector	E. SEYMOUR, M.R.S.I. Certified Meat & Food Inspector.
Health Visitor (Dorset County Council appointment.)	MISS O'BRYEN HODGE.

The Medical Officer of Health also holds the appointments as Medical Officer of Health to Wareham Borough Council, Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council, and Assistant Medical Officer to Dorset County Council.

Public Health Office,
12a. Institute Road,
Swanage.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Swanage Urban District for the year 1939.

The Report, whilst similar in outline to those of previous years, is, in accordance with the directions in the Ministry of Health Circulars, much curtailed.

The principle features of the year under review have been the holding of a Ministry of Health Inquiry in respect of Clearance Areas under the Housing Act 1936, the presentation of a Special Report to the Council on the flooding of the Towns Sewers; the adoption of a scheme for Immunisation of children against Diphtheria, and the provision by the Council in conjunction with Wareham Borough Council, Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council, and Dorset County Council, of a Central Office with clerical assistance at Swanage for the Medical Officer of Health.

I should like to express my thanks to yourselves for your consideration and support, and also to the Sanitary Inspector for his co-operation and the efficient manner in which has has carried out his many duties during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

E.J. O'KEEFFE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area. - 2760 acres, with a further 31 acres of foreshore.

Population. Registrar General's estimate of
(a) Resident Population, Mid. 1939 6031
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates 6406

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to the rate book 1626
Rateable value £73,830
Sum represented by a penny rate £290

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births	Legitimate	52	20	32	Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	8.78
	Illegitimate	1	-	1		
Still Births		1	1	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	18.5
Deaths		82	36	46	Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population	12.8

Live births. (For the purpose of calculation of infant and maternal mortality) :-

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate ...	56	22	34
Illegitimate ...	1	-	1

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis.	Nil	Nil
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death rate of infants under one year of age :-
All infants per 1,000 live births 87.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 71.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. 1,000.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (all ages)	Nil

Birth, Death, Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates during the Year 1939.

	Births per 1,000 Population		Deaths All Causes per 1,000 Population	Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births	Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.		
	Live Births	Still Births			Puerperal Sepsis	Others	Total
England and Wales.	15.0	0.59	12.1	50	0.74	2.08	2.82
148 Smaller Towns estimated resident population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census.	15.6	0.57	11.2	49	Not available		
Swanage.	8.7	0.15	12.8	87.7	Nil	Nil	Nil

There were no specially noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the year, nor any conditions of occupation or environment which would appear to have a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There was no change during the year on the services provided in the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The source of water supply to the area is the same as in the previous year.

The supply from the Corfe Castle and Ulwell Springs was chlorinated throughout the year.

Samples of water were taken regularly and bacteriological examination was carried out at the County Laboratory.

No. of Water Samples Examined.

Corfe Castle Source		Ulwell Source	
Untreated	Treated	Untreated	Treated
37	51	26	51

Total No. of samples examined - 165.

Samples of water taken after chlorination were of a high standard of purity, while samples taken at the source indicated the need for continuous treatment.

During the year the Council had under consideration the best means of carrying out the recommendations contained in Dr. E.V. Suckling's report of September 1938, for ensuring an adequate supply of pure water under all circumstances.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections	2,765
Number of informal notices	421
" " " complied with	401
" " " outstanding	20
Number of statutory notices	10
" " " " complied with	10

Drainage and Sewerage.

Serious flooding of the sewers occurred on the 26th. and 30th. of August following heavy rainstorms.

This was made the subject of a special report to the Council in which it was pointed out that:-

The areas affected by flooding with sewage were New Swanage district and the Victoria Avenue area. That the cause of the flooding appeared to be due to:-

(a) The large volume of storm water which came down the valley following a rainstorm.

(b) The inadequate size and defective levels of the sewers.

(c) The entrance of the sewage from the Old Swanage area into the outfall sewer tends to cause backing up of sewage in the New Swanage sewer.

That the practice of allowing the storm water to enter the sewers which are inadequate in size to deal with the sewerage increases the liability to flooding.

It was indicated that owing to the outbreak of war a major scheme for the reconstruction of the sewerage system would not be possible, but it was recommended as a temporary measure to prevent flooding that excess stream water should be discharged into the Swanage and Ulwell streams and on to the foreshore.

The Council directed that a survey of the existing sewerage system should be made.

Flooding of the Swanage stream occurred on the night of the 2nd. September following a rainstorm. The stream overflowed and flooding occurred in the lower central part of the town of business premises and houses.

Housing - Clearance Orders.

During the year a Ministry of Health Inquiry was held in respect of 13 Clearance Areas comprising 59 houses. There were 38 objections to the order in these areas. In all cases the order was confirmed without modification, except in the case of five houses. In respect of four of these undertakings were accepted to render the houses fit for human habitation, and in one case an undertaking was given that the house would not be used for human habitation but for business purposes only.

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.

1. (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	374
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	503
2. (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	109
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	240
3. No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	14
4. No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 70

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 20
2. No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
   a. By Owners 20
   b. By Local Authority in default of Owners ..... -

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act.

1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 95
2. No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
   a. By Owners 95
   b. By Local Authority in default of Owners ..... -

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 35
2. No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 6

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 2

Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV.) Overcrowding.

(a) 1. No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 2
2. No. of families dwelling therein 1
3. No. of persons dwelling therein 16

(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. 2

(c) 1. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 10
2. No. of such persons concerned in such cases 50

New Houses.

Total No. of New Houses erected during 1939 by the Local Authority 46
No. of Houses owned by the Local Authority 171
Approximate No. of working class houses in District 1,000

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Frequent visits were made to dairy farms and other dairy premises in the district during the year. Twenty-one informal notices in respect of defects were sent to owners of dairies, all of which were complied with.

A marked improvement in the method of milk production was effected.

Total No. of visits made 144

Number of samples of ungraded milk taken ..... [illegible]
" " " considered satisfactory ..... [illegible]
" " " " unsatisfactory ..... [illegible]

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Pasteurised Milk.

Regular visits were made during the year to pasteurising and bottling establishments in the District.

Total samples of pasteurised milk taken [illegible]
Number of samples which passed the phosphatase test .... [illegible]
" " " " failed to pass the phosphatase test ..... [illegible]
Number of samples in which the bacteria per millilitre was more than 100,000 ..... [illegible]
Number of samples in which the bacteria per millilitre was not more than 100,000 9

Meat and Food Inspection.

Number of visits to Slaughterhouses ..... [illegible]
" " " " Meat Shops ..... [illegible]
" " " " Fish Shops ..... [illegible]
" " " " Bakehouses 21
Visits to Other Food Shops ..... [illegible]

The total amount of meat condemned during the year was 3,671 lbs.

Adulteration.

The following particulars of samples taken in the district under the Food and Drugs Act 1938, were supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Description of sample	Number of samples obtained	Number of samples reported against.
Butter	1	-
Cheese	1	-
Cream of Tartar	1	-
Iodine, Tincture of.	1	-
Jaborandi	1	-
Marmalade	1	-
Medicinal Paraffin	1	-
Milk	12	-
Milk (Condensed)	1	-
Quinine, Ammoniated Tincture of.	1	-
Sausage	2	2
Sweets	1	-
TOTALS	24	2

Action taken with regard to samples adversely reported upon:-

Sausage

Informal sample. Contained 305.4 parts per million of undeclared preservative expressed as Sulphur Dioxide.

Corresponding formal sample. Contained 192 parts per million of undeclared preservative expressed as Sulphur Dioxide.

Seller prosecuted and fined 5/-.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of infectious disease has remained low during 1939.

The following are particulars of cases notified during the year:

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to hospital	Age Groups	Total Deaths
Puerperal Fever	1	1	4-5	-
	2	-	10-15	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	20-35	-
	1	-	35-45	-
Erysipelas	1	-	1-2	-
	1	-	35-45	-
	4	-	45-65	-
	2	-	65 and over	2
Whooping Cough	1	-	1-2	-
	1	-	2-3	-
	2	-	5-10	-
Post-encephalitis	1	-	5-10	-
Acute poliomyelitis	1	-	5-10	-
Acute encephalitis lethargica	1	1	45-65	-
Septicaemia	1	-	45-65	-

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation against diphtheria was introduced [illegible] the year. Children of pre-school age and school age were immunised [illegible] at the Welfare Centre and at the Schools by the Medical [illegible] of Health. In addition prophylactic material was supplied free of charge to medical practitioners in the district.

The immunising agent used was T.A.F., three injections of 1 c.c. given at fortnightly intervals.

A total of 122 children were immunised.

	Under 5 years.	Over 5 years.
Total number of cases completed.	59	5
At Schools and Welfare Centre ..	58	59
By Medical Practitioners	1	-

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary during the year under Sec. 172, Public Health Act 1936, or under The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths during 1939 :-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
10	1		1					
15	1							
20								
25								
35					1			
45								
55	1				1	1		
65 and upwards								
TOTALS	3	-	1	-	2	1	-	-

One case (female aged 53 years) who died from pulmonary tuberculosis had not previously been notified as suffering from the disease.

Cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register of Notifications on 31st. December 1939 :-

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
11	5	16	6	5	11	27

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Twenty-one inspections of factories were made, and five notices were issued all of which were complied with.